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LOGISTICS

First military operation between European Union and African Union. The European Advisors role in Darfur (AMIS)

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I would like to present the logistic matters and experiences in the Darfur mission. Everything that is written in this article is based on personal experience, observation and opinion. I had spent six months in the field as an EU military advisor to help and build a working logistic system to African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS).

Antecedents

In prehistoric times, the peoples of what is now Darfur were related to those of the Nile Valley (including Egypt), whose caravans probably reached the region by 2500 B.C.E. According to tradition, the region's first rulers were the Daju. By around 900 C.E., Christianity had spread to the area; by the thirteenth century, however, the region had fallen under the domination of the powerful Islamic empire of Kanem-Bornu to the west, and the Tunjur replaced the Daju as the ruling elite of the region. The sultanate of Darfur first entered the historical record during the seventeenth century, under Sulayman. Sulayman belonged to the Keira Dynasty, which claimed Arab descent and which removed the Tunjur from power. Except for an interval during the nineteenth century, this dynasty ruled Darfur until 1916. Gradually the Keira merged with the Fur, the agricultural people over whom they ruled. (The state's name, Dar Fur, means "house of the Fur" in Arabic.)

The slave trade figured prominently in both the formation and the expansion of the Darfur Sultanate. Parties from Darfur obtained slaves and ivory by either raiding or trading with the stateless societies that lay to its south and southwest. Not only did Darfur's rulers export slaves to North Africa and along the "forty days' road," which crossed the desert from Darfur to Egypt, but slaves also served the sultan as soldiers, laborers, and bureaucrats. Sulayman's successors expanded the state. In 1786 Sultan Muhammad Tayrab conquered the province of Kordofan from the Funj Sultanate of Sennar to the east. In 1821, however, Egyptian forces conquered the Funj Sultanate and wrested Kordofan from Darfur. Traders from Khartoum then began to compete in the

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slave trade with those in Darfur. Turkish-Egyptian forces under Rahma al-Zubayr conquered Darfur in 1874 and overthrew the Keira sultan. In 1885 a Sudanese rebellion under a religious leader called the Mahdi overthrew the Egyptian state, which had come under increasing British influence. In 1898 British forces defeated the Mahdist state and placed it under Anglo-Egyptian administration. Under their policy of indirect rule, the British restored the Darfur Sultanate under Ali Dinar Zakariyya. Ali Dinar played a significant role in an Islamic, anti-Western alliance that formed during World War I. The Anglo-Egyptian government subsequently invaded Darfur, killed Ali Dinar, ended the sultanate, and incorporated Darfur into Sudan. After Sudan attained independence in 1956, Darfur remained under Sudanese rule. Darfur was ruled by commissioners who neglected the basic needs of the people and merely fulfilled the interests of the central government. Only after the inhabitants of El-Fasher revolted against Khartoum in the early 1980s, were they allowed to have several regional governors from Darfur in brief succession. However, since the Islamists usurped power in Sudan in 1989, the majority of the governors appointed in Darfur have been of Arab origin. According to the motto “divide and rule” and constantly trying to weaken the spirit of unity among the Darfurians, the Khartoum government divided Darfur, which was originally one state, into three smaller states with three capitals:

- El-Fasher for Northern Darfur
- Nyala for Southern Darfur
- El-Geneina for Western Darfur.

The conflict

Open warfare erupted in February 2003 when the two loosely allied rebel groups, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), attacked military installations.

This was followed closely by peace agreements brokered by the United States to end the twenty-year-old civil war in the south of Sudan which allocated government positions and oil revenue to the rebels in the south. At that time rebels in Darfur, seeking an end to the region’s chronic economic and political marginalization, also took up arms to protect their communities against a twenty-year campaign by government-backed militias recruited among groups of Arab extraction in Darfur and Chad. These “Janjaweed” militias have over the past year received government support to clear civilians from areas considered disloyal to the Sudanese government. Militia attacks and a scorched-earth government offensive has led to massive displacement, indiscriminate

killings, looting and mass rape, all in infringement of the 1949 Geneva Convention that prohibits attacks on civilians.

The war, which risks inflicting irreparable damage on a delicate ethnic balance of seven million people who are uniformly Muslim, is actually multiple intertwined conflicts. One is between government-aligned forces and rebels; a second entails indiscriminate attacks of the government-sponsored Janjaweed militia on civilians; and a third involves a struggle among Darfur communities themselves. Its implications go far beyond Darfur's borders. The war indirectly threatens the regimes in both Sudan and Chad and has the potential to inspire insurgencies in other parts of the country. But this conflict in stabilizes not only these countries but the others around as well.

The mission

For this reason, after the Peace negotiations when the Parties (African countries, various fighting fractions-SLA, JEM, NRMD,-UN, EU, NATO and USA) agreed to send peacekeepers to Darfur to stop the violence, they had to act immediately. African Union (AU) decided to send troops as soon as possible to the area to secure it. Because the AU as a new organization faced with serious financial shortages and with some capacities (Logistic, Air Ops, IT) the EU, USA and NATO offered him help on these fields.

After the Donor conference all organization decided to send observers to help and participate in the AU second peacekeeping mission (African Union Mission In Sudan-AMIS) in Africa. The donors begun to send their aid (money and equipments as well) to the mission area but the African troops weren't prepare to handle them. Both of the shortage of military and police forces and the missing positions mostly in the logistic field made the situation very difficult on the ground. The African countries sent mostly infantry troops without working logistic support system (combat support units, etc). However the soldiers made good work as infantry units, nobody takes care about keeping the records or put in file the donated equipments for this reason a lot of things were missing or were used in a wrong way.

There were shortages of staff officers in the Logistic and planning sections, which caused real problems and various problems with the provision (food, drinking and potable water, bed items, sanitation, communication, etc).

The donors offered sometimes all services or facilities to AU, for example USA provided the all camps construction through the state own company, PAE. Although the PAE made a really good job, which based on the contract between AU and USA, from the AU/AMIS part nobody could directed and check them properly, because the missing logistic experience.

In the same time the AU officials realized that they overcharged their troops on the ground and they didn't have enough capacity to secure the Darfur area and run the mission as well. So for this reason they decided to enlarge the troop numbers and expand the all mission. In the first phase the real strength of the troops were 138 MILOB's (Military Observer) and 195 Rwandese and 193 Nigerian Protection Forces (Aug 04).

On the second phase the strength of troops supposed to be 3320 person but the AU and the participants couldn't manage to fill the all position.(2774 troops, included Civpol's were on the field at the end of June 05.) This happened in the enhancement phase as well (AMIS-II-E), where the mission expected to expand to 6171 military personal and 1560 civilian police(at the end of October 05.) but they couldn't fill the all positions and the third phase, where 12300 personal were planned, this phase never come on board...

The donors agreed on it and offered not only money, Air lift for the African troops and equipments but logistic advisors/expertise as well, which offers were requested and accepted by AU officials. This phase was AMIS II-E and begun on 1 July 05. For this time the EU logistic expertise begun to deploy to Addis Ababa, Khartoum and El-Fasher as well.

With and wide scale agreement between AU and the donors there were constructed various new position inside the AU and the mission to encourage the growth of the logistic capacity in AMIS. The highest organization inside AU who coordinated the mission in Darfur, the Darfur Integrated Task Force (DITF) was, where was located the ACMC section where the EU, NATO and USA advisors worked. Generally the ACMC is the J4 and J8 function within the DITF, working directly to the Chief of Staff.

The ACMC is responsible for coordinating all logistic support between the AU, the Donor and Partner nations and Contractors in order to provide support to the operational commanders. It provides logistic synchronization support to the movement plan, the force generation plan, the infrastructure development plan and the equipment delivery programmer working in co-ordination with the Logistic Cell at Mission HQ in Khartoum and the JLOC in El Fasher.

The ACMC co-ordinates and priorities the overall containment effort for AMIS tasking the JLOC through the chain of command as required.

Because Darfur is only a part of Sudan it was important to establish an Headquarter in Khartoum to deal with the Sudanese authorities and represent the AU in all matters which are related with AMIS. In Khartoum we had a logistic cell as well.

Generally this section acted as the logistic transit hub in co-ordination with ACMC and the JLOC. Provided diplomatic clearances (Visas and Customs clearance), as required, and provided movement and contractual support to AMIS.

In El-Fasher (the capital of Darfur) deployed the Joint Logistic Operation Centre (JLOC), which is organized and directed the logistic system in the mission area and made the real work on the field.

Generally the JLOC acted as the logistic focus within the FHQ for both the Military and Police missions. It prepared operational logistic plans in support of the operation and acted as the operational level logistic authority. The JLOC ensured that the operational theatre is properly sustained. The JLOC worked in direct co-ordination with the Logistic Cell at Mission HQ in Khartoum and the ACMC in Addis Ababa. You can see the organization chart in Figure 1.

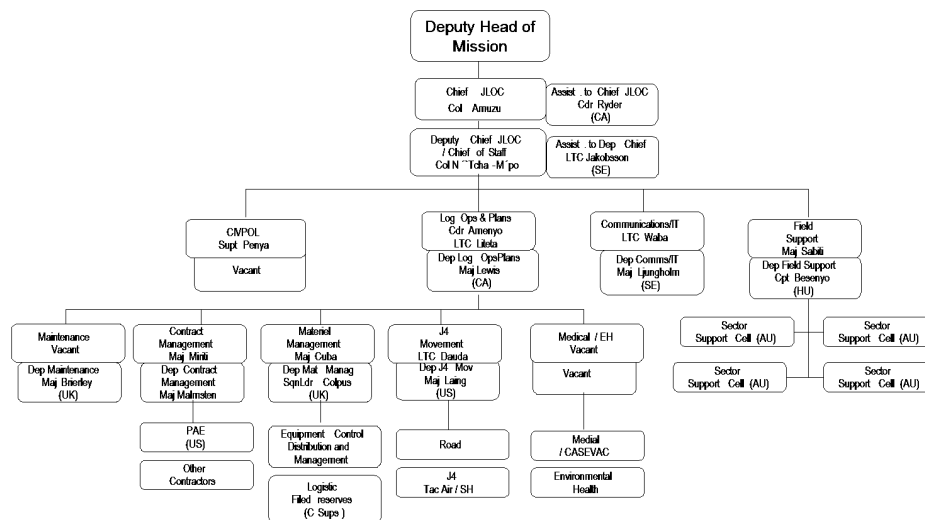


Figure 1. AU/JLOC structure at El Fasher (Source: AMIS 2005)

Chief JLOC. The Chief JLOC was responsible for the delivery of logistic support to AMIS within the operational theatre. He worked through the Deputy Head of Mission and operates on behalf of both the Force Commander and the CIVPOL Commissioner.

Deputy Chief JLOC. He acted on behalf of the Chief JLOC and is the JLOC Chief of Staff, coordinating all operational logistic staff effort.

Field Support Section (FSS). The FSS provided the direct logistic contact with Sectors on behalf of Chief JLOC and worked in co-ordination with the functional cells. The FSS was responsible for the delivery of up to date logistic reports and returns from Sectors to the Chief JLOC.

He was responsible in the mission area (with close relation with PAE and its subcontractors) for the food-catering service, camp management, water supply, environmental, health and camp sanitation, fire marshalling and for other orders from Chief JLOC.

Log Ops and Plans. He provided logistic planning support to the Force Commander and the CIVPOL Commissioner. Provided real time logistic support to the operation ensuring that the military and CIVPOL are properly sustained with C Sups in co-ordination with PAE.

Maintenance. He ensured that all vehicles in theatre are properly maintained and supported in co-ordination with Contractors.

Materiel Management. He ensured that all equipment is properly distributed and managed to support the needs of the operation and all equipment is properly accounted for.

Movement/Air Ops. He coordinated all in-theatre J4 movement including tactical airlift, SH, (when in a J4 function) and road convoys.

Medical/Environmental Health. He coordinated medical and health service support to include treatment and evacuation of casualties, medical logistics, preventative medicine and environmental health with PAE and other medical providers. This position wasn't filled nor by EU or AU in this time, for this everybody from JLOC dealt with this matters.

Communications/IT. He coordinated the distribution and maintenance of all communications and IT equipment in accordance with the communications plan.

CIVPOL. He acted as the CIVPOL interface to the JLOC ensuring that all CIVPOL requirements and enhancement needs are met. This position wasn't manned by EU under my service time.

EU advisors-JLOC

The first EU advisors arrived in the theatre on 29 June from United Kingdom, Spain and Hungary. We spent our first weeks in Addis Ababa because we didn't get our visas in time, so we occupied ourselves in Addis to help inside the DITF. Thereafter we received our visas and went to Khartoum first after that to Darfur. When we arrived there we got temporarily accommodation only for a time because the camp was overcrowded. Nearly all European expertise worked and lived in Africa previously (Myself in Western Sahara-MINURSO) but we didn't prepared ourselves so many difficulties what we find there.

We needed some days to accommodate ourselves and try to begin our job. Unfortunately we didn't have offices, the JLOC were existing only on paper and not in the real life, and we didn't find our African counter partners, who we have to work

together. For this reason the Force Commander decided that we have to work in the FHQ logistic section and take part the replacement and development of AMIS II-E. Despite that we weren't under the Force Commander command we begun to work with the FHQ Logistic cell and met with more problems. However the PAE and their subcontractor worked hard to construct new camps and enlarge the previous facilities they were late because the rainy season (In this time the only way to transport materials was with helicopters).

We had to support the troops on the ground and organize the Airlift in close cooperation with AU, EU, NATO and USA and provide accommodations, food, water and others for the newcomers. Table 1 shows the AMIS II-E deployment schedule.

Of course this schedule changed because of the circumstances (weather, readiness of camps, etc) and only in October we could finish the enlargement of AMIS.

Table 1. The AMIS II-E deployment schedule

Battalions	Deployment Dates	Number of Pax	Estimated Freight (Tons)	Est Ammo (Tons)	Preferred APOE	Preferred APOD	Airlift Donor Nation
Nigerian Bn 1 Sector 2	1–14 Jul	680	40	18	Kaduna	Nyala	GER UE
Rwandan Bn 1 Sector 1	15–29 Jul	680	32	16	Kigali	Nyala	US NATO
Rwandan Bn 2 Sector 7	30 Jul–9 Aug	538	32	16	Kigali	El Fasher	US NATO
Gambian Coy Force HHQ	30 Jul–9 Aug	196	12	7	Banjul*	El Fasher	?
Nigerian Bn 2 Sector 8	10–18 Aug	876 (note 3)	40	18	Abuja*	Nyala	UK NATO
Senegalese Bn Sector 5	20–29 Aug	538	32	16	Dakar	El Fasher	France UE
Nigerian Bn 3 Sector 3	1–9 Sep	484 (note 3)	40	18	Abuja*	El Fasher	UK NATO
Rwandan Bn 3 Sector 4	30 Sept–6 Oct	538	40	18	Kigali	El Fasher	?
South African Bn Sector 6	22–25 Oct	550 (Note 4)	32	16	Bloemfontein or Pretoria	El Fasher	Netherlands NATO
South African Eng Coy, EOD team Reserve Coy	28–29 Sep	210	12	(Note 2)	Bloemfontein or Pretoria	El Fasher	Netherlands NATO
Kenyan MP Sector 1	30 Sep	25	2	–	Nairobi	El Fasher	?

Source: AMIS 2005

Under this time the all JLOC positions (except the CivPol and the Medical Environmental Health) were filled by the donor countries (Spain, France, United Kingdom, Sweden, Dania, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, USA and CA) but the AU only filled the logistic positions in JLOC at the end of October, till this time we worked alone with all responsibility. When we received our partners it was clear that expect some they don't have any logistic background (graduation in logistic school or experience on the field), this made our job more difficult.

The other problem was that no any African unit (except the South Africans) arrived with full capacity units, because in the battalions only on paper worked Combat Support Units (Sector Support Cell). These units filled with infantry soldiers and not with logistics. The lack of logistic skill, everybody expected everything from the civilian contractor (PAE). However there is a new trend in peacekeeping or other operations that civilian companies make a lot of job, for what the army don't want waste soldiers or they don't have the necessary qualification for it (Logistic, Air Ops, IT, Communication, cleaning and construction jobs), the military component has to plan the mission needs, order the service and properly check the contractors before the payment. For this reason very important that the J4 (logistic) section will be manned with qualified and capable officers, who can deal with the civilian companies in all matters and level. In Darfur this isn't worked properly and the mission leaders didn't know really what was in the contracts, for this reason they expected sometimes more service from the contractor, what AU and USA government agreed on previously. One of our first jobs was to read trough the contracts to finalize what the civilian companies have to do and what is our (AMIS) right and obligation and create a working system together with sectors and the civilian companies (reports, registrations, etc). After that all of us begun to work on his job, because I was responsible for the Field Support Service, this mean for the food-catering service, camp management, water supply, environmental, health and camp sanitation, fire marshalling and for other orders from Chief JLOC. The mission area was the same size as France and in the 8 sectors 33 camps were located.

What made our job more difficult that in this time (from June till the end of 2005) the security situation was relatively calm but unpredictable, the banditry attacks, stealing of livestock, harassment of the civil populace by armed militias were usual nearly on every weeks.

The fighting's renewed in the general areas (Jebel Marra, Amu valley, Muhjeria, etc.) between Sudanese Armed Forces, Janjaweed militias and SLA and JEM. The armed arab militias attacked villages (Tawila, Mukjar, etc) and IDP's camps as well. The rebels attacked GOS and Humanitarian convoys as well and there were some clashes between SLA and JEM. Violent threats against AMIS, UN and NGO (Non

Governmental Organizations) have increased so the situation begun to be more problematic. I think sometimes the fighting fractions agreed that AMIS could be a target. It happened that between Khor Abechi and Menawashi an unknown fighting fraction attacked to PAE trucks, where they killed the civilian drivers and not so later other 5 Nigerian soldiers, who arrive to relive the convoy. In another case other group attacked a patrol in Sector 5, where they took over all the equipments from the soldiers and released them without combat boots, so they had to walk back to the camp on bare foot. A lot of times they shouted for AMIS helicopters (on 24 December 05 one fall down and everybody on the board died) convoys and camps. But the Sudanese Army wasn't much better because they painted their attack helicopters and military vehicles for white and attacked the SLA and JEM positions with them. Of course after a time the fighters didn't take any difference between GOS or AMIS white cars. Time to time the Sudanese Army organized us quite nice military parade around the FHQ, which were frustrated our soldiers. When we received the first Canadian APC's (Armoured Personal Vehicle) the Sudanese authorities send us an official warning letter that they won't tolerate if any of them going in the hand of SLA or JEM. After this letter they organized a tour with soldiers, tanks and various military equipment (from the 1960's till today, mostly Russian equipments). The soldiers were yelling, crying and shouting with weapons around the camp, I think they try to show us who has the real power in Sudan. Under my time I could observe two of this kind of parade in El-Fasher.

The Humanitarian situation in the IDP's camps were becoming over congested, the facilities at the camps were overstretched. However the Humanitarian Agencies had continued to provide life-saving Humanitarian assistance to IDP's as well residents in the villages but some of them evacuated their aid workers because the banditries and attacks against the Humanitarian convoys and workers.

Although the situation was unpredictable the presence of Humanitarian agencies, AMIS Milob's, CivPol's and foreign observers helped in stemming the tide of hostilities.

In this situation AMIS/CFC (Cease Fire Committee) had continued to intensify its activities to reduce the incidence of ceasefire violations in Darfur. In accordance with its mandate as contained in article 4 of HCFA (8 April 2004 AMIS) continuously investigated allegations in response to reports of ceasefire violations (Baraka, Gaida, Kalma, etc). The regular patrols were conducted by Milob's to promote confidence building and also to show AU presence on the ground. Unfortunately after some shouting incident against AU personals or in difficult situations the leaders of AMIS gave orders to delay patrols to save our soldiers. These situations were only temporarily time and after that we begun to conduct the patrols again. The mission leaders and the CFC embarked on consultations with all parties in the conflict and the Humanitarian

Agencies and attended the Joint commission meeting once a month at N'djamena, Chad. This was the real situation in AMIS-II phase and at the end of October we had 3 infantry battalion from Nigeria, 3 infantry battalion from Rwanda, 1 infantry battalion from Senegal, 1 infantry company from Gambia (as a reserve unit in FHQ), 1 Military Police Unit from Kenya and 1 infantry company, 1 engineer platoon and a EOD section from South Africa.

In the same time we had Military Observers, Civilian Police members, the workers of contractors (PAE-USA and Skylink-Canada) and their subcontractors (Amzar-Food, catering service, MSS-medical and Hygienic service, etc.) and other local workers (building and cleaning camps, etc) who didn't live all in the camps but they used our facilities as well. This caused new challenges to our overloaded camps systems.

The strength of AMIS was grown up quickly and when I left it was the next:

military all ranks:	5611
CivPol:	1195
PAE:	229
AMZAR:	418
Skylink:	139
Total:	7589

As the Deputy Field Support Service I had to work in close relationship with my African counter partner and the contractors on the next topics.

Food-catering service. Monitoring PAE and AMZAR in the field, are adhering to the contract and SOPs, as set out by the AU. In close cooperation with AMZAR & PAE organise the food delivery to the remote camps with AirOps. I was working with the PAE Food & Facilities Manager any problems regarding with the AU. I gave advice AMZAR in catering field, training for cooks (kitchen guideline, etc.). Our section had to cooperate with other sections (Ops and Plans, Logistics, Mess committee, etc.) and we had take care of delegations, guests.

Camp management. Monitoring PAE in the field, are adhering to the contract and SOPs, as set out by the AU.

I had total responsibility for the smooth running of the camp catering, liaising with the Catering Contractor on a daily basis. All Facilities including but not limited to Laundry, Dining Rooms, Accommodation, Camp Maintenance & Equipment Security.

Water supply. I had monitored PAE in the field, are adhering to the contract and SOPs, as set out by the AU.

I worked in close cooperation with PAE water manager to provide drinkable and potable water to all mission area. We checked the quality of water time to time (with normal senses and labor as well).

Environmental, Health and Camp sanitation. I had monitored PAE and MSS in the field, are adhering to the contract and SOPs, as set out by the AU. We worked in close cooperation with PAE camp sanitation manager and MSS operational manager. Our job was the Health & Hygiene Management within the Camp Facilities, to include waste management (Fuel spillage, waste disposal, sewage) and the Stress management (entertainment).

Fire Marshall. I had monitored PAE camp managers in the field, are adhering to the contract and SOPs, as set out by the AU. We planned and checked the Fire evacuation plans, and worked in close cooperation with PAE. We organized Fire extinguishes delivery and refresh to the remote camps with AirOps. We coordinated with the PAE Operational Manager any problems regarding the AU (cooking inside the tents, etc.).

The difficulties and challenges

Although most of EU advisor had served in Africa previously, because the shortage of time we got only one day training to prepare ourselves for this mission in Brussels. I think later in other operation need to organize a course at least 2–3 days to know each other better and make more detailed preparations.

AU wasn't prepared to handle the EU-NATO-USA advisors in a right way ("white face problem"). We faced with a lot of uncomfortable situation when African officers told us that we are colonialist or the spy of western countries. It happened that an African politician questioned the contents of our reports from Darfur. He told that our report didn't reflect the real and true situation on the field and he sent us emails, in which he stated our limited capacity to help AU mission in Sudan. As a Hungarian it caused me very bad time because we never-ever had any colony in Africa and we don't have any economic or other interest in this place. We arrived to help and left behind us our families, job and everything and risked our life and personal safety. No any of us from the JLOC received salary or any goods from AU, we were paid by EU and our own countries. Fortunately this wasn't too usual situation because most of our colleagues were helpful and from the AU officials we got all support what we needed. However, we learned that the Africans are very sensitive and to give them advice and help sometimes difficult.

We had quite basic environment, no EU standard (camp sanitation, personal hygiene, accommodation, food, etc.) As I mentioned previously when we arrived to Darfur, it was the enhancement time and most of the camps were overcrowded, that caused problems.

We met with different cultural conventions, different nationals. Religious practice and possible oversensitive (to work in Muslim environment as a Christian) caused us problems as well.

The different approach about responsibilities and rights in the Mission (rank, position, qualification, etc.) gave us headache all the time.

Problems which we are faced

– To live/work in a unknown environment. Not only for us but some African officers and soldiers were unknown this place and we had to learn to respect and understand the locals and cooperate with them.

– No JOC only JLOC was worked in the mission. When the JLOC was created we saw that there is some misunderstanding between the military and civilian components and this caused unnecessary difficulties in the everyday life. The JLOC begun to harmonize between the components to clarify their logistic needs and give them advice and help to fulfill their tasks. We faced another problems as well, which we couldn't solved alone so for this reason we suggested to create JOC (Joint Operation Centre) to harmonize the work of all part of AMIS (CFC, military, police and civilian parts). I don't know why but some high ranking officers rejected this idea and in 2005 this section/group was only in our dreams.

– No real responsibility (missing positions as well camp commandants, logistic, hygiene and fire officers). As I mentioned before we needed to take more responsibility in the work with civilian companies/contractors. For example, I suggested that we have to appoint in each camp logistic officers, camp commandants (a kind of quartermaster, who is dealing with the camp order and organize everything that is related with the camp), hygiene and fire officers, who had to work in close relationship with PAE camp managers (their responsibilities were to run the camps) and with the MSS doctors. No any soldiers like if a civilian try to give them orders (how they have to clean their tents, behave in the camps etc.) for this reason it was important that the Army part of this mission, not to be only a customer who order services from the civilians but a participant who take his own responsibility to run the mission. When I left only in El-Fasher we had an appointed camp commander and his work proved that when the military and police forces took more responsibility and worked with the contractors, everything went more smoothly than before.

– Slow decision making. Because of lack of information, problems with communications and other short falls made difficult to decide on time and act rapidly as necessary in amilitary operation.

– No any daily logistic sitreps from sectors to FHQ. Some camps didn't have radios, laptops or computers and if they send any reports they wrote them with hands. Most of camps didn't send any daily logistic reports as we did in UN or NATO missions for this reason we didn't get correct information from their needs. The sector logistic officers (who were mostly infantry, artillery or other specialties) without this information could report only their request to us. For this reason they got more logistical help than the camps. When we arrived in any camps the problems came out immediately (we don't have cars, spare tires, communication equipment, cameras, computers, no enough food, etc) and we were surprised because nobody reported their real situation. If we want to run smoothly a military or peacekeeping operation very important to receive real information from the field and act immediately to fulfill the logistic needs.

– No proper planning. It means logistically not as an operational way. For example it caused a lot of problem when AU officials planned their fuel needs (helicopters, cars, etc) because they planned for 12 days but the amount fuel that they calculated was enough only for 8 days. So AU could save approximately 1million USD but Canada (who donated the helicopters and the flight hours) had cost this more. For this reason in the rainy season we couldn't send enough food to the camps to feed our soldiers. One soldiers supposed to get 15 kg food/week (including the wrapping materials) so we needed for the all mission weekly 120 tons of food. When I arrived we received 35–45% of the necessary amount of ingredients and when I left 76%, but we never received the full amount. This happened because we didn't get enough fuel and other reasons as well. A lot of times the PAE used its own helicopters to supply African troops on the ground because the AMIS helicopters couldn't flight the lack of kerosene. As I know we never paid the extra work and the used fuel, flight hours to PAE. This only one of the problems what we are faced because the improper planning.

– Lack of Human resources or using them in a wrong way, in a wrong position. For example when the positions in JLOC were filled by AU, we didn't have enough African officers who graduate in Logistic school or have logistic experience. We requested an officer from FHQ who has 15 years experience in transportation field and we couldn't get her, because she was the only who could make PowerPoint presentation in her section. For this reason they didn't released her and we got another officer who didn't know too much about transportation matters and he had to learn it. Fortunately all officers who got position in JLOC wanted to perform good job and this made our job easier.

– Lack of communication between sections or components and rivalrization. First we didn't have enough communication equipments and the donors gave not the same type systems. This is a technical thing, which we can solve with professional communication and IT personals and harmonize the systems to work. But we never had

enough specialists for this job. Another problem was that there were clashes between the military and police components and the JLOC as well (rights, responsibilities, etc.). It takes extra time and efforts to solve these situations.

– African officials and high ranking officers (not all!) behavior towards non African advisors that I mentioned previously.

Possible future for EU in Africa.

– Bringing some of our experience as advisors.

– Take part in the training and build a working training system (Communications, IT, Logistic and AirOps) We can expect growing ethnical and religious problems in Africa and more hot place but not a good idea to send any European troops there, only military and police advisors and trainers (historical reasons, sensitiveness).

– Establish a planning process in the EU to be able providing support to other organizations (AU) in crisis management operations and provide short and long term support. It can be a long term support to have staff or liaison officers at AU HQ in Addis Ababa to support the AU with long term crises management (mostly in logistic and contract issues).

– Take part in the rebuilding process and help to develop the local economy.

I think the EU advisors made useful job in AMIS and if we use the experience what we got in Sudan we can prepare ourselves to make a better job in the next missions in Africa (Somalia, Bissau-Guinea, etc) and develop a real partnership with the African countries to solve the problems of the continent.